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Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.69/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. At its 53rd meeting, on 30 November 2001, the Third Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.69/Rev.1. The programme budget implications of the draft resolution, amounting to a requirement for additional appropriations of $1 million for the biennium 2002-2003, were before the Committee in document A/C.3/56/L.81, and are reproduced below for consideration by the Fifth Committee.

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.69/Rev.1, the General Assembly would invite the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, under the direction of the Secretary-General, to provide appropriate assistance to the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa to ensure its efficiency and the smooth functioning in accordance with section III of its resolution 55/234 of 23 December 2000. The Assembly had endorsed in section III of resolution 55/234 the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on Policy and Coordination on the work of its fortieth session.[1]

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3. It is recalled that the Committee on Programme and Coordination, by its paragraph 267 of the report on its forty-first session[2] recommended that in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, resources be allocated to the Centre in accordance with the recommendations contained in paragraph 70 (a), part II, of the Committee's report on its fortieth session,[3] adopted by the General Assembly.

4. It is also recalled that in paragraph 138 of its resolution 54/249 of 23 December 1999, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide the Centre with adequate financial resources, and in that regard decided to appropriate an amount of $1 million in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. The appropriation was made under section 22, Human rights.

5. It will also be recalled that in paragraph 22.45 of document A/56/6 (Sect. 22), the Secretary-General stated that the non-inclusion of resources in the biennium 2002-2003 on the Centre is without prejudice to such needs as might be demonstrated in the context of the report on activities to establish the Centre, which would be presented to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session. The report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the activities that have been carried out as well as those envisioned in connection with establishment of the Centre[4] is before the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

II. Activities through which the request would be implemented

6. Should the draft resolution be adopted, the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights would continue to lend their support to the smooth functioning of the Centre through the following activities to be carried out during the biennium 2002-2003:

A. Human rights activities

(a) Training:

(i) Human rights training session for political leaders, in the first semester of 2002;

(ii) Human rights training session for media practitioners, in the second semester of 2002;

(iii) Annual training course for civil servants and human rights defenders on international human rights mechanisms, to be held in June 2002 and June 2003.

(b) Advisory services and technical cooperation:

(i) Continuation of technical cooperation programme for the national human rights bodies;

(ii) Provision of advisory services and technical cooperation to Governments and non-governmental organizations, upon request;

(iii) Support for strengthening the activities of human rights non-governmental organizations and networks.

(c) Capacity-building in human rights and democracy:

(i) Implementation of a fellowship programme;

(ii) Development of a roster/resource bank of expertise in human rights and democracy in Central Africa, starting in January 2002.

(d) External relations and partnerships:

(i) Signature and application of a memorandum of understanding with the Economic Community of Central African States through its general secretariat;

(ii) Development of partnerships with various national, African, and international organizations sharing the same goals as the Centre.

B. Activities related to democracy

The appointment of a programme officer on democracy would be required to handle the Centre's programme of activities on the subject of democracy. The terms of reference of this position would include the following activities:

(a) Research and compile relevant documentation on democratization, both within the United Nations and in the countries of the subregion, and on progress in the democratization process in those countries;

(b) Study and assess technical cooperation needs for the subregion's democratization process;

(c) Develop a programme of activities and technical cooperation projects for the countries of the subregion, in consultation with all interested parties;

(d) Prepare and execute a strategy to integrate human rights and democratic principles into the United Nations activities and programmes on conflict prevention in the subregion;

(e) Develop education and training programmes for the promotion of democratic principles and the human rights aspects of democracy to target groups, in particular government authorities, political parties, media and civil society;

(f) Provide assistance to Governments, upon request, for the preparation of elections, the development and execution of training programmes and policies in the field of election monitoring, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, concerned bodies and non-governmental organizations;

(g) Provide advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of democracy to countries of the subregion, as requested by Governments, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations and representatives of the Secretary-General in Central Africa;

(h) Assist, at the request of Governments, in the creation and/or strengthening of national institutions responsible for managing activities related to democracy in their countries (ombudsmen, national electoral commissions etc.);

(i) Develop and strengthen cooperation networks in the subregion, including identifying potential areas of cooperation in the field of democracy;

(j) Provide training during workshops and other similar activities in the subregion;

(k) Undertake representational and other missions in the subregion, on behalf of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other entities of the Secretariat, as appropriate.

III. Modification required in the programme of work for 2002-2003

7. The narrative of section 22 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 would be modified as shown below and incorporated into the final version, subject to the decision of the General Assembly. The proposed revisions to section 22 are as follows:

Paragraph 22.44 (d) (i)

After the word "Cambodia;", add the words "and strengthening of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, Yaoundé".

IV. Indication of additional requirements

8. Should the General Assembly approve draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.69/Rev.1, the additional requirements for the implementation of the programme of work described above would amount to $1 million to continue the present level of support as a subvention. The cost plan for allocation of the subvention would be as follows (in United States dollars):

Positions to be funded:		
P-5 Head of Office	251 800[a]	
P-4 Programme Officer	211 600[a]	
P-3 Human Rights Officer	97 800[b]	
General Service (Administrative Assistant)	42 400[a]	
General Service (Documentalist)	42 400[a]	646 000
General Temporary Assistance (Driver/Messenger)		12 000
Consultants and experts:		
To provide expertise for (a) the preparation of training materials for four subregional workshops, (b) the development of a curriculum for the introduction of human rights in the courses of primary and secondary schools, and (c) the design of a programme for the development of national institutions for human rights in Central Africa		38 500
Travel of 25 participants to each of four subregional training workshops		147 800
Travel of staff:		
International travel	15 900	
Travels within subregion	17 400	33 300
Contractual services:		
External printing and binding of newsletter		10 000
General operating expenses:		
Rental and maintenance of office premises	43 200	
Rental of conference space for workshops	2 000	
Utilities	7 200	
Rental of local transportation for workshops	1 000	
Communication costs	12 000	
Maintenance of furniture and equipment	6 000	
Maintenance of office automation equipment	6 000	77 400
Supplies and materials		
Stationery, office supplies etc.	6 000	
Library books and supplies	5 000	11 000
Fellowships		12 000
Joint administrative activities		12 000
Total		**1 000 000**

[a] Estimated at a vacancy rate of 95 per cent for the Professional and higher-level categories and 98 per cent for the General Service category, since these positions have been filled in 2000-2001.

[b] Estimated at a vacancy rate of 50 per cent in accordance with existing practice for new positions.

9. As mentioned above, no provision has been made under the proposed programme budget for the Centre. At this stage, it is not anticipated that these requirements could be absorbed within the existing resources under section 22, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

V. Contingency fund

10. It will be recalled that under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from the legislative mandates not provided for in the approved programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures proposed exceed resources available from the contingency fund, these activities can be implemented only through the redeployment of resources available from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities.

11. Should it not prove possible to meet the cost required from the contingency fund, the activities and outputs to be carried out under section 22 foreseen for the biennium 2002-2003 would have to be further reprogrammed and modified beyond the proposals included in the present statement.

VI. Summary

12. **In summary, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.69/Rev.1, that decision would give rise to additional requirements for the biennium 2002-2003 under section 22, Human rights.**

13. **It is not possible at this stage to identify activities within section 22 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium.**

14. **Consequently, an additional provision of $1,000,000 would be required over and above the resources proposed under section 22, Human rights. This provision would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require an increase in appropriations for the biennium 2002-2003.**

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/55/16).

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/56/16).

[3] Ibid., *Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/55/16). The Committee, in para. 70 (a), part II, recommended that the preliminary estimates should be adequate for the full implementation of all mandated programmes and activities, including the projects initiated in the biennium 2000-2001, according to legislative intent and in the most effective and economical manner.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 36*, addendum (A/56/36/Add.1).